



# Latrobe Valley Naturalist

November - December 2016

Issue No. 587

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Treasurer: David Mules  
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## General meetings

Held at 7:30 pm on the  
fourth Friday of each month  
at the Newborough Uniting  
Church, Old Sale Road  
Newborough VIC 3825



Golden Jelly Bells *Heterotextus peziziformis* photographed during the May excursion to Duff Sawmill Track near Traralgon South (Photo: Matt Campbell).

## **Upcoming events**

November general meeting: Friday 25 November

Habitats and birdlife of French Island – Martin O'Brien

Excursion: Saturday 26 November – French Island. Fully booked. Bus leaving Yinnar at 6.30am to meet ferry at Corinella at 9.30am. Ferry returning to Corinella at 2pm.

Bird Challenge Count: Friday 2 – Sunday 4 December

Christmas Party: Saturday 10 December at Ken and Wendy Savage's place, Yarragon South

Baw Baw Wildflower Walk: Saturday 14 January. Meet 9am at DELWP office, Parkers Corner.

Club Summer Camp: Friday 3 – Monday 6 February at Lakes Entrance

Botany Group: Saturday 11 February – Lakes Entrance plants. Details TBC.



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## Platypus – The World's Strangest Animal

We were privileged to have two world-renowned naturalists and photographers give a presentation on the life of a platypus at our April meeting: David and Liz Parer. David spent 35 years working in the ABC Natural History Unit and has travelled to many parts of the world filming wildlife. They have produced innumerable natural history documentaries and the ones I remember the most are 'The Wolves of the Sea', 'The Dragons of Galapagos' and 'Australia – Land of Parrots'. All of their documentaries have been ground-breaking and raised our knowledge and awareness of the world around us.

In 2003, they produced another ground-breaking documentary called 'Platypus – The World's Strangest Animal' and we were shown some of the amazing footage of these extraordinary and engaging animals. In 2015, they wrote, designed and self-published their very first book based on the documentary of the platypus.

Platypus are described as strange because they appear to be a composite of several other species. They have webbed feet like a frog, a bill like a duck, venom like a snake (from spurs on their back legs) and strangest of all, they lay eggs like a bird and secrete milk like a mammal. David and Liz were so fascinated by the mysteries of the platypus that they spent three years filming them in Tasmania, including deep inside their nesting burrows. They are common in Tasmania, but difficult to see because they meld into the water and rocks and can suddenly disappear. They also tend to be mostly crepuscular and nocturnal (they come out late in the afternoon and return before dawn) but some feed during the day.

They showed some remarkable footage of platypus feeding, their food consisting mostly of shrimps, worms and larvae of insects. When feeding, they close their eyes and ears and use the receptors on their bill to locate food. It was the bill that fascinated the early zoologists, but it is only recently that we have begun to understand it. The bill has receptors that are sensitive to touch and the electrical impulses of their prey.



A platypus has many strange features (Photo: David Parer)

David and Liz often used an infrared camera to capture the behaviour of platypus at night, some of which had never been seen before. There was an amusing sequence of pictures of a Little Pied Cormorant interacting with a platypus; the cormorant used the platypus to flush out the shrimps on which it fed. The cormorant dived each time the platypus dived, and actively encouraged the platypus to dive by pecking on its neck.

Another sequence showed a territorial dispute between two males. This was followed by a sequence of courtship and mating. The courtship involves the male attaching to the female's tail, and rolling and going around in circles. The female then collects nesting material, jams it under her tail and takes it back to the burrow. The female will lay one or two eggs, sometimes three.

The nesting burrows can be difficult to find because they can extend up to 30m into the bank. The nest itself is a complex structure, difficult to insert an endoscope into, and it took David and Liz 17 days to find the female and baby. Later on they installed a larger, permanent camera with an infrared light and were able to observe the development of the baby platypus. The nursing female eats half her body weight in food and then secretes milk from glands on her belly.



There is much that we still do not understand about the behaviour of platypus, and some of the sequences filmed by David and Liz raise more questions than answers, but it is only through their patience and dedication that we can begin understand these strange and fascinating animals.

David Stickney

## **Fire and the Woodland: Excursion to Yanakie Isthmus 23.04.2016**

Our excursion began with Jim Whelan providing some background and explaining some of the reasoning behind the ecological burn of December 2012. The 7000 ha of the Yanakie Isthmus was taken over by Parks Victoria in 1969. It has been subject to heavy grazing with cattle on agistment from the 1850s until 1992, rabbits since the early 1900s, kangaroos, which were introduced in 1910, and deer, in addition to the wombats and wallabies indigenous to the area. Top predators, such as quolls and dingos, have been removed. Fire regimes have changed over time. Coast Tea Tree, which is unpalatable to herbivores and which regenerates prolifically after late summer fires, now dominates the vegetation.

Between the 1950s and 1970s, Coast Tea Tree gradually invaded and eventually covered most of the area, severely reducing the biodiversity. Prior to this, the Isthmus was open woodland with grassy areas and shrubs. Evidence from pollen counts suggests that this had been the case for at least 6000 years. In 1971 botanist/ecologist Dr David Ashton noted that the Coastal Grassy Woodland vegetation types, now referred to as EVC 858 Calcarene Dune Grassland and EVC 309 Calcareous Swale Grassland, were fast disappearing in Victoria. The Yanakie Isthmus is now of high conservation value as it is the largest remnant of these highly depleted vegetation types that support numerous threatened flora and fauna species.

Currently the Yanakie Isthmus Coastal Grassy Woodland Adaptive Experimental Management Project is gathering information and exploring management strategies that may eventually contribute to the restoration of the Coastal Grassy Woodland vegetation types. An expert Technical Advisory Group was established in 2009 to review research and provide advice on the program.



Dune regrowth amongst the fallen Coast Tea Tree  
(photo: Margaret Rowe)

The objective of the Old Burn Track Ecological Burn in 2012 was to assist with control of the invading Coast Tea Tree. The plan was to burn an area dominated by an almost complete cover of Coast Tea Tree during late spring or early summer, before the seed on the Coast Tea Tree matured. It was hoped that the burn would kill any viable seeds that remained in the soil from the previous year.

Jim outlined something of the detailed research and planning, carried out with the assistance of Geoff Pike, to develop non-standard burn prescriptions necessary to ensure a safe and



effective burn during the time period available in the National Park. For example: temperature at 17 to 30°C, relative humidity 20-50%, wind speed 30-50 km/h and wind direction from north through to east. There had to be no west wind in the outlook, and wind with an easterly influence forecast for the following two days. Soil moisture and vegetation (fuel) types were studied and data from previous burns was examined.

On 11<sup>th</sup> December 2012, conditions were appropriate. The burn went as planned – straight from the road to the coast, pushed by a strong easterly wind, burning virtually the entire target area and achieving a crown burn over a very high percentage of it. For future reference, details of the fire behaviour were monitored. The results of vegetation surveys in 2013 showed that the planned burn caused a significant increase in the mean diversity of flora between 2011 and 2013.

Although Coast Tea Tree cover is now very much reduced, it is intended to burn this site again within five years, hopefully before the remaining Coast Tea Tree produces viable seed. Also, it is intended to repeat a similar burn to further test the effectiveness, and possibly to improve, this management technique. Research, such as the use of exclusion plots, has shown that current levels of grazing will kill native grasses and other woodland plants that attempt to re-colonise the open areas created by the burn. To restore Coastal Grassy Woodlands it will be necessary to exclude or limit the size of populations of grazing animals (deer, rabbits, wombats and kangaroos) in selected areas.



Vegetation inside and outside the herbivore exclusion plot (Photo: Margaret Rowe)

Geoff Pike led us to the site of the burn. Vegetation at the first stop, a plain leading to a low sandy rise, was dominated by knee-high shrubs of Silky Guinea-flower *Hibbertia sericea*, with occasional slightly taller shrubs of Coast Tea Tree *Leptospermum laevigatum* and Coast Wattle *Acacia longifolia* var. *sophorae*, as well as Knobby Club-sedge *Ficinia nodosa*. The vegetation was sufficiently sparse to allow us to walk through it easily except where burned Coast Tea Tree had fallen. In places, the interwoven fallen branches acted in a similar way to the exclusion plots, offering protection for more lush growth, particularly of several species of native grass and Seaberry Saltbush *Rhagodia condolleana*.

A close search revealed many of the plants expected in Coastal Grassy Woodlands, such as Climbing Lignum *Muehlenbeckia adpressa*, Ridged Ground-berry *Acrotriche affinis*, Bare Twig-rush *Baumea juncea*, Drooping She-oak *Allocasuarina verticillata*, Coast Daisy-bush *Olearia axillaris*, Black-anther Flax-lily *Dianella revoluta*, Slender Bush-pea *Pultenaea tenuifolia*, Small-leaved Clematis *Clematis microphylla*, Bower Spinach *Tetragonia implexicoma* and Karkalla *Carpobrotus rossii*. Weeds such as Pimpernel, Fleabane, Oxalis and Hare's Tail Grass were present but not conspicuous.

At the second stop we climbed a dune and, in addition to many of the species seen at the first stop, we found among the blackened branches of Coast Tea Tree: Running Postman *Kennedia prostrata*, Australian Hound's-tongue *Cynoglossum australe*, Coast Swainson-pea *Swainsona lessertiifolia*, Hill Saw-sedge *Lepidosperma concavum* and White Correa *Correa alba*. From here we enjoyed the view of the familiar skyline of the southern parts of Wilsons Promontory. In the swale below, in an area that would normally be fairly wet, the striking contrast between the vegetation inside and outside the exclusion plots illustrated the severe pressure of grazing.



Weeds such as Fleabane and Oxalis were more conspicuous in this area. We were interested to see patches of the leaves of Broad-leaf Early Nancy *Wurmbea latifolia subsp. vanessae*, a plant which Jim had mentioned earlier as a food source once used by Aboriginal people.

While the effects of the burn on the vegetation were the main focus of the visit, there were interesting challenges for photographers, and a number of birds were seen: Brown Thornbill, Grey Currawong, Grey Fantail, Crescent Honeyeater, Red Wattlebird, Yellow-tailed Black-cockatoo and Crimson Rosella. Full plant lists and bird lists are available on the LVFNC website as an Appendix to this report.

Margaret Rowe

*With thanks to Geoff Pike for his assistance in providing a handout containing details of the objectives, burn prescriptions, conditions on the day and monitoring conducted.*



After the conclusion of the April club excursion to the Yanakie Isthmus, some of us rambled along the trails to the west of our lunch spot, the Stockyard camping and picnic area. The displays of the male Drooping She-oak *Allocasuarina verticillata* high on the sandy ridges caught my attention – in late autumn, it has glowing orange-tan tassels on the ends of its long, hanging branchlets.

Phil Rayment

## **Botany excursion to Noojee State Forest and the Ada Tree 30.04.2016.**

Jack and Marja led our April botany excursion on a big loop through the Noojee State Forest. Having spent a few days camping up there at Easter, they provided a large plant list and a map showing our route, with various stops planned to look at interesting plants and plant communities.

From the Noojee-Powelltown Road, we headed north up McCarthys Spur Rd. Our first stop on the roadside had a mixture of eucalypts: Messmate, Manna Gum and some Mountain Ash. We started ticking off the typical wet forest understorey plants such as Hazel Pomaderris, cassinias, and Prickly Currant-bush. Bracken grew extensively on the roadside, but as we walked down into the creek there was False Bracken, Fishbone Water Fern, both tree fern species and a single King Fern *Todea barbara*.

Next stop was an old logging coupe which was regenerating well. This was open with lots of sunshine, and the understorey plants were competing for space with the young eucalypts – Kangaroo Apple, Blanket Bush and Snowy Daisy-bush being the most numerous. There were three distinctly different *Juncus* species, but they were all unfamiliar to us. It would take a long while to work them out from the 50 species listed in the Flora of Victoria. We saw one clump of what looked like Pampas Grass, but it was our native Giant Mountain Grass *Dryopoa dives*, which I've only seen once before.

As we continued northward and ascended steadily, the Blackwoods were replaced by a tree that looked fairly similar but was more blue-green in leaf and had a sparser growth habit – Montane Wattle *Acacia frigescens*. Mountain Hickory Wattle grew here too, and its single oblique vein in the leaf contrasted to the 3 or 4 parallel veins in *A. frigescens*. We stopped in an area thick with many



types of eucalypt – Silvertop, Messmate, Mountain Ash, Mountain Grey-gum and some stringybarks. New plants here were Notched Phebalium, which is now called *Leionema bilobum subsp. serrulatum* or Toothed Leionema, and Balm Mint-bush *Prostanthera melissifolia*. Mueller's Bush-pea *Pultenaea muelleriana* and Mountain Correa *Correa lawrenceana* grew extensively for most of the remaining drive to our destination, the Ada Tree. By now we were travelling through pure Mountain Ash stands with masses of tree ferns beneath.

After lunch in the picnic area, we walked the 1.5 km track in to the Ada Tree, a massive Mountain Ash that had escaped logging and is estimated to be at least 300 years old. This walk was through rainforest, and the track was moist and cool. Myrtle Beech and Southern Sassafras formed the canopy beneath the tall Mountain Ash, and ferns abounded. Hard Water Fern grew extensively and a few Ray Water Ferns were beside the track. In this constantly moist environment, Bristle Fern, filmy ferns and mosses clothed the tree-fern trunks and fallen logs. Three filmy ferns were found: *Hymenophyllum australe* with its winged stem, *H. cupressiforme* looking similar, but without the wings and *H. flabellatum* which had much larger fronds. I had trouble telling them from one of the mosses, which also had fine, almost-transparent, green 'fronds'. This moss was *Cyathophorum bulbosum*, appropriately named the False Fern-moss. The other moss with a descriptive common name was *Hypnodendron vitiense* or Umbrella Moss.

We returned to the carpark along the level and open fire access track, and although we were not far from our route in, we were no longer in the rainforest, so it was light and dry with different plants. Banyalla, Dusty Daisy-bush and Forest Geebung grew here, and Mountain Correa was everywhere again.

After all the time driving, walking and stopping to look at plants, it was after 4 pm when we got back to the cars, so we headed home, returning to the Noojee-Powelltown Road via Turkey Spur Road. The winding road descended steadily through thick forest carpeted with tree ferns, with one logged coupe allowing a glorious view to forested hills beyond, lit by the afternoon sun. Thanks to Jack and Marja for taking us on such an interesting and well-planned excursion.

Wendy Savage

### Excursion to Duff Sawmill Track 28.05.2016

With rain forecast for the day, I picked up Ken from his house with a light fog hiding the blue skies above. As we headed for Traralgon South, we popped in and out of the fog, which allowed us a glimpse up towards our destination, the Mt Tassie area. The top of the mountain was covered in low cloud so, unusually, we'd be leaving fog in the valley and heading up through sunny and clear conditions only to arrive again in fog at the top.

We arrived at the designated meeting spot at the Traralgon South Hall where Tamara was already waiting. We were soon joined by Rose, Peter and Jack. David Mules had said he would meet us up at the start of the track. Tamara and Rose grabbed a seat in one of the three vehicles available and we headed up.

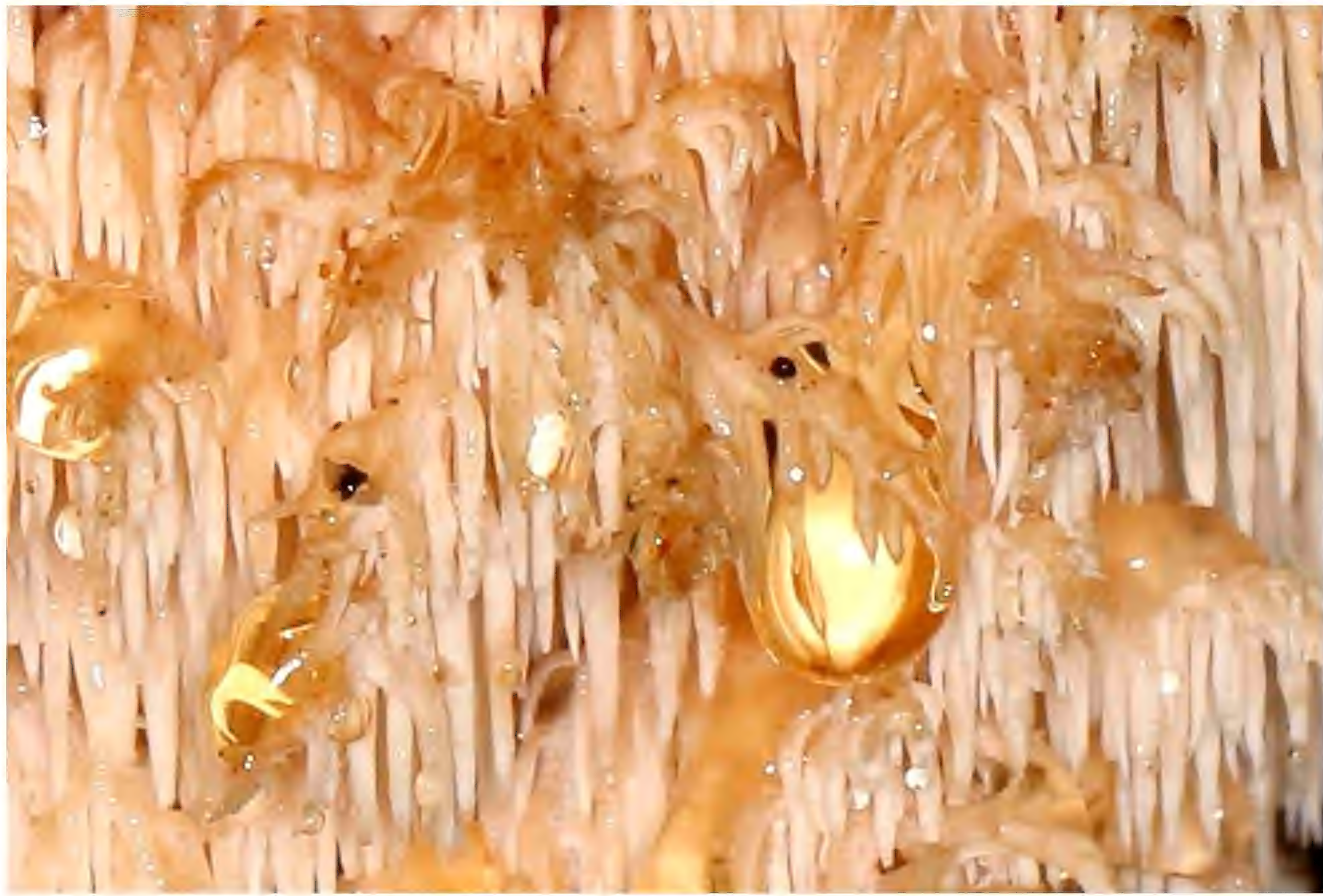
David was waiting for us at the southern end of the track and it wasn't long before everyone was ready to head off. Yours truly somehow ended up with pen and paper in hand as Ken suggested someone do a writeup of the day while staring in my direction and



*Tremella mesenterica* (Photo: Matt Campbell)



I immediately started jotting down species of fungus as the group found many nearby. We started off at a slow pace to the sight of bodies getting down low, flashes going off and conversations over what was being found. On top of the fungi, Ken also pointed out some of the beautiful lichens found, as well as ferns – he was collecting a few for the botany group to study the following Saturday. As always, David was busily compiling a list of birds as each one called or crossed our path.



Coral Tooth Fungus (Photo: Matt Campbell)

We made our way along the track, stopping when anything caught our eye. At times we ended up stretched out along a fair length of the trail but never so far that anyone was left behind or was having to stand around waiting for others to catch up. The list of fungus species grew rapidly with so many eyes looking out for them. The variety was great too, with everything from little jellies to giant shelves and brackets being found. The highlight for me was finding the Coral Tooth Fungus *Hericium coralloides*, a species I'd wanted to see for several years. Of course there was the usual mix of 'caps' that can be so difficult to work

out without the aid of a microscope, but we were still able to identify enough to make it sound like we knew what we were doing.

After about two hours we split up, some of us going back to collect cars while the others continued on. Those of us that went back to the vehicles then drove to the northern end of the track and started walking back in. We had to walk over 1.5km before we met up with the others. By this time the weather was looking a little more threatening and it wasn't long before it started to rain. Not heavy, but steady, enough to get thoroughly soaked. Or it would have been had we not all arrived back at the cars just as it started.

We then decided to head to the shelter at Bulga for lunch. Or so we thought. While myself, Ken and Tamara went there, it turned out that the others thought we meant the Visitors Centre and that's where they went. After lunch (and a leech count as we all copped a few), we thought that they'd either gone home or possibly to the Visitors Centre so we detoured via there to find the rest of the group under the shelter. It was good that we made this decision as we were all treated to a visit by a Pilotbird. It was a real thrill to have this little guy show up, considering how shy and secretive they normally are.



The Pilotbird that visited us during lunch (Photo: Matt Campbell)

We were also joined by a cheeky Crimson Rosella that was stealing any food not nailed down. After this, we slowly made our way back down to Traralgon South where those who had left cars there reunited with them and all headed for home after a thoroughly enjoyable day.

Matt Campbell



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## Carolyn Landon on her book: 'Banksia Lady: Celia Rosser, botanical artist' 25.06.2016

Carolyn found that the experience of writing this biography changed her; her appreciation of, and interest in, the natural world around her was awakened. It has also given Celia an overview of the way Monash University initiated and managed the Monash Banksia Project.

Carolyn illustrated her talk with photographs of Celia's artwork from childhood to her achievements that have earned her the highest honours as a botanical artist. Celia says that every painting has a story, and Carolyn related some of these amazing and amusing personal anecdotes, as well Celia's experiences in visiting places and meeting people who were instrumental in recognising the outstanding quality of her work.

From childhood, Celia had shown interest and ability in drawing. Her perseverance and resolve to devote her time to art continued throughout her life. Leaving school at 14, Celia studied drawing and art at Royal Melbourne Technical College. By 17, she was employed as a fashion illustrator. Carolyn outlined various difficulties and obstacles that Celia overcame during her childhood and adolescence.



Celia's painting of *Banksia ericifolia* for *The Banksias Vol II*

Marriage, and the birth of four children, meant that there was little time for art. Celia's husband's work as a teacher took the young family to Swan Hill and then to Orbost, where Celia began painting orchids and other wildflowers. This is where she first fell in love with banksias. Her friend, Brenda, saw her talent and encouraged her. They organised an art course in Orbost through the Centre of Adult Education and the exhibition of their work led to an invitation for Celia to exhibit in the Leveson Street Gallery in Melbourne. This brought high praise from Bernard Smith, art critic for *The Age*, who compared her work favourably with that of the most celebrated botanical artists of the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Jacaranda Press asked Celia to illustrate a handbook: *Wildflowers of Victoria*. This brought her in contact with the Assistant Government Botanist, Dr James Willis, who taught her how to collect plants and began teaching her the science of botany. Professor John Turner and Dr Carrick Chambers, from the University of Melbourne's

School of Botany, recognised the high quality of her work and this led to the Maud Gibson Trust funding her to paint all six Victorian banksias.

Employed at Monash University, Celia's first task was to draw graphs and diagrams. Later she worked with botanists illustrating a booklet on saltmarsh plants, and a book on the identification of mosses. While completing the illustrations of mosses, Celia began, in her own time, a painting of *Banksia serrata*. During the process, she displayed the work each week in the staff room at Monash. No one commented to her about it.

Without Celia being aware of it, plans were being made in 1972 by Monash University for her to illustrate a florilegium of all known banksia species. The Monash Banksia Project began in 1973 and continued until 2001, with Dr Alex George writing the text and Dr George Scott coordinating the project.



Almost without exception, Celia was in the field with Alex George to collect the specimens, make notes and sketches and record colours. Carolyn outlined the process, with at least seven stages, that Celia used as she worked in the studio to create each painting. Alex George was meticulous in checking the botanical accuracy of each painting.

The first of the three volumes was displayed in Australia House, London, in 1981. Celia suddenly became a celebrity. George Scott realised that she now needed to understand more of the history and importance of botanical art and arranged for her to meet Professor William Stearn and Wilfrid Blunt in the UK. They were most impressed by her work. World-wide exhibitions of Celia's work followed and she has met many dignitaries, including the Queen. Many prestigious awards and honours have been bestowed upon her.

A new banksia species was discovered in 2002, after the project was finished. It was named *Banksia rosserae*. Celia painted it, adding the flower when flowering occurred in 2006. She owns this painting. The three volumes of *The Banksias* belong to Monash University, which will ensure that the collection remains intact for the benefit of future generations.

Margaret Rowe

### **Birdlife Australia Bird Challenge Count 2016**

The proposed dates and locations for the count this year are:

Group 1 – Friday 2 December: Edward Hunter Reserve, Moe Treatment Works, Lake Narracan

Group 2 – Saturday 3 December: Yarragon South, Uralla Reserve, Trafalgar Settlement Ponds

Group 3 – Saturday 3 December: EA Wetlands, Crinigan Road Reserve

Group 4 – Saturday 3 December: Traralgon RRCR, Wirilda Environment Park

Group 5 – Sunday 4 December: Mathison Park, Morwell NP

Please contact Alix on [alixw@spin.net.au](mailto:alixw@spin.net.au) to indicate which group/s you wish to join, so that she can provide you with details closer to the dates.

### **Baw Baw Wildflower Walk 2017**

Join the Friends of Baw Baw National Park for a walk at Mt Saint Gwinear on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> January, 2017. Meet 9:00am at the DELWP Office at Parkers Corner near Rawson to register and arrange carpooling. Departure will be at 9:30am, returning by late afternoon.

A moderate level of fitness is required. Bring your lunch, water, walking shoes and clothing suitable for the changeable alpine environment, including wet weather gear.

For more information, contact Alix on 5127 3393 or [alixw@spin.net.au](mailto:alixw@spin.net.au)



Snow Gentians are one of the many wildflowers to be found at St Gwinear in summer (Photo: Ken Harris)



## REPORT ON BUSINESS MEETING 22.10.2016

### Finance

Cash Management Trading Account: \$4,966.31   Term Deposit: \$16,170.23

### Business Arising, Correspondence & General Business

- Summer camp to Lakes Entrance 3-6 Feb 2017: accommodation has been booked at Lakes Jakaranda Holiday Units, 59 Church St, Lakes Entrance. Five 2-bedroom self-catering units each with a queen and 2 single beds, towels and linen supplied. Cost is \$85 per night for 4 people (\$21.25 per person). Club has paid \$250 in deposit. Balance of \$1025 due Dec 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- SEANA Autumn Camp at Sale 2017: Applications for registration have been sent out to clubs and past participants. Phil is looking for volunteers for specific tasks.
- ANN Perth: 6 of our Club members attended this very well-organised camp. The new ANN steering committee included Phil as Secretary for another 2 years. The 2018 event will be held in Victoria.
- Photographic competition: Entries must be submitted to Ken Harris by 31 Nov.
- Planned burning community collaboration: Booklets of draft 2017 burning schedule shown at meeting were to be sent to club. Have sent email request to Pete Sheldon.
- Program planning meeting: We have a good choice of speakers to contact. Thank you to those members who provided suggestions.

### Conservation Matters

- Bird count at EA Wetlands on 15<sup>th</sup> Sept recorded only 35 species. However, the weather was very bad.
- Tyers Bridge over the Latrobe River: Irene Proebsting has sent us details of her concerns regarding Vicroads' excessive clearing of Strzelecki Gums and riparian vegetation, and would like us to put in an objection. Phil will prepare and submit this.
- Purple Diuris orchid count: Dawson site was counted on Wed 19<sup>th</sup> Oct by 6 people and they found 302 (92 last year). The Longford Rd count is planned for Wed 26<sup>th</sup> Oct.



## CHRISTMAS PARTY



**The Club's Christmas Party this year will be held  
at Ken and Wendy Savage's place 'Eurabbie' at 52 Earls Road in Yarragon  
South, on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> December. A map and directions on how to get there can be  
found in the electronic version of this Naturalist. Celebrations commence at 12 noon.  
Please BYO food, drinks, table and chairs. Punch, Christmas cake, tea and coffee  
provided, and of course... the Quiz!**



## Guest speaker for November

*Martin O'Brien*

Martin is a wildlife biologist who worked for 25 years as a policy officer with the Department of Environment. He is a member of the Friends of French Island National Park and will speak about the habitats, birdlife and conservation activities occurring in this area.



## Summer Members' Night

*Various speakers*

January's meeting is our annual Summer Members' Night, where club members can present a short talk (~10 mins) on any topic related to natural history. A projector is available for showing Power Point presentations or photos, if required. If you would like to present to the group on this night, please register your interest by emailing David Stickney at [david.stickney@westnet.com.au](mailto:david.stickney@westnet.com.au).



***Thank you to everyone who contributed to The Naturalist in 2016. Best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a safe and happy New Year to all our members, their families and friends.***

*Latrobe Valley Naturalist* is the official publication of the Latrobe Valley Field Naturalist Club Inc. The Club subscription includes the "Naturalist".

Brief contributions and short articles on any aspect of natural history are invited from members of all clubs. Articles, including those covering Club speakers and excursions, would typically be around one A4 side in length, should not exceed 1,000 words, and may be edited for reasons of space and clarity. Photos should be sent as an attachment and be a maximum of 1 megabyte in size.

Responsibility for the accuracy of information and opinions expressed in this magazine rests with the author of the article.

Contributions should be addressed to:

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**Deadline for articles to be considered for inclusion in the next issue (January/February): 13 January 2017**

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## APPENDIX I – Excursion to Old Burn Track, Yanakie Isthmus 23.04.2016

### Plant list

#### **Monocotyledons**

Cyperaceae	<i>Baumea juncea</i>	Bare Twig-rush
Cyperaceae	<i>Carex breviculmis</i>	Common Grass-sedge
Cyperaceae	<i>Ficinia nodosa</i>	Knobby Club-sedge
Cyperaceae	<i>Lepidosperma concavum</i>	Hill Saw-sedge
Juncaceae	<i>Luzula meridionalis</i>	Field Woodrush
Liliaceae	<i>Dianella revoluta</i>	Black-anther Flax-lily
Liliaceae	<i>Wurmbea latifolia subsp. vanessae</i>	Broad-leaf Early Nancy
Poaceae	<i>Austrodanthonia sp.</i>	Wallaby-grass
Poaceae	<i>Austrostipa sp.</i>	Spear-grass
Poaceae	<i>Imperata cylindrica</i>	Blady Grass
Poaceae	<i>Lagurus ovatus*</i>	Hare's Tail Grass
Poaceae	<i>Microlaena stipoides</i>	Weeping Grass
Xanthorrhoeaceae	<i>Lomandra longifolia subsp. longifolia</i>	Spiny-headed Mat-rush

#### **Dicotyledons**

Aizoaceae	<i>Carpobrotus rossii</i>	Karkalla
Aizoaceae	<i>Tetragonia implexicoma</i>	Bower Spinach
Asteraceae	<i>Conyza sp.*</i>	Fleabane
Asteraceae	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare*</i>	Oxeye
Asteraceae	<i>Olearia axillaris</i>	Coast Daisy-bush
Asteraceae	<i>Senecio jacobaea*</i>	Ragwort
Boraginaceae	<i>Cynoglossum australe</i>	Australian Hound's-tongue
Casuarinaceae	<i>Allocasuarina verticillata</i>	Drooping She-oak
Chenopodiaceae	<i>Rhagodia candolleana</i>	Seaberry Saltbush
Convolvulaceae	<i>Dichondra repens</i>	Kidney-weed
Dilleniaceae	<i>Hibbertia sericea</i>	Silky Guinea-flower
Epacridaceae	<i>Acrotriche affinis</i>	Ridged Ground-berry
Epacridaceae	<i>Leucopogon parviflorus</i>	Coast Beard-heath
Fabaceae	<i>Kennedia prostrata</i>	Running Postman
Fabaceae	<i>Pultenaea tenuifolia</i>	Slender Bush-pea
Fabaceae	<i>Swainsona lessertiifolia</i>	Coast Swainson-pea
Geraniaceae	<i>Geranium molle*</i>	Dove's Foot
Geraniaceae	<i>Geranium sp.</i>	Geranium
Geraniaceae	<i>Pelargonium australe</i>	Austral Stork's-bill
Mimosaceae	<i>Acacia longifolia var. sophorae</i>	Coast Wattle
Myrtaceae	<i>Leptospermum laevigatum</i>	Coast Tea-tree
Onagraceae	<i>Epilobium billardierianum var. cinereum</i>	Variable Willow-herb
Oxalidaceae	<i>Oxalis corniculata*</i>	Yellow Wood-sorrel
Oxalidaceae	<i>Oxalis exilis</i>	Shady Wood-sorrel
Polygalaceae	<i>Comesperma volubile</i>	Love Creeper
Polygonaceae	<i>Muehlenbeckia adpressa</i>	Climbing Lignum
Primulaceae	<i>Lysimachia arvensis*</i>	Pimpernel
Proteaceae	<i>Banksia integrifolia</i>	Coast Banksia
Ranunculaceae	<i>Clematis microphylla</i>	Small-leaved Clematis
Rhamnaceae	<i>Pomaderris oraria</i>	Coast Pomaderris
Rosaceae	<i>Acaena echinata</i>	Sheep's Burr



Rosaceae  
Rutaceae  
Santalaceae

*Acaena novae-zelandiae*  
*Correa alba*  
*Exocarpos syrticola*

Bidgee-widgee Burr  
White Correa  
Coast Ballart

\*introduced species

### Bird List

Black-cockatoo, Yellow-tailed  
Currawong, Grey  
Fairy-wren, Superb  
Fantail, Grey  
Honeyeater, Crescent  
Honeyeater, White-eared  
Robin, Eastern Yellow  
Rosella, Crimson  
Scrubwren, White-browed  
Shrike-thrush, Grey  
Thornbill, Brown  
Wattlebird, Red



## APPENDIX II – Botany excursion to Noojee State Forest & Ada Tree 30.04.2016

### Plant list

#### **Mosses**

Hypnodendraceae	<i>Hypnodendron vitiense</i>	Umbrella Moss
Hypopterygiaceae	<i>Cyathophorum bulbosum</i>	False Fern-moss
Polytrichaceae	<i>Dawsonia superba</i>	Giant Dawsonia

#### **Liverworts**

Hymenophytaceae	<i>Hymenophyllum flabellatum</i>	Fernwort
Plagiochilaceae	<i>Plagiochila fasciculata</i>	Camphor Featherwort

#### **Lichens**

Cladiaceae	<i>Cladia aggregata</i>	
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#### **Ferns**

Aspleniaceae	<i>Asplenium bulbiferum</i>	Mother Spleenwort
Blechnaceae	<i>Blechnum fluviatile</i>	Ray Water-fern
	<i>Blechnum nudum</i>	Fishbone Water-fern
	<i>Blechnum wattsii</i>	Hard Water-fern
Cyatheaceae	<i>Cyathea australis</i>	Rough Treefern
Dennstaedtiaceae	<i>Histiopteris incisa</i>	Batwing Fern
	<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>	Austral Bracken
Dicksoniaceae	<i>Calochlaena dubia</i>	Common Ground-fern
	<i>Dicksonia antarctica</i>	Soft Tree-fern
Dryopteridaceae	<i>Polystichum proliferum</i>	Mother Shield-fern
Gleicheniaceae	<i>Gleichenia microphylla</i>	Scrambling Coral-fern
	<i>Sticherus lobatus</i>	Spreading Fan-fern
	<i>Sticherus tener</i>	Silky Fan-fern
Grammitidaceae	<i>Grammitis billardiarei</i>	Finger Fern
Hymenophyllaceae	<i>Crepidomanes venosum</i>	Bristle Fern
	<i>Hymenophyllum australe</i>	Austral Filmy-fern
	<i>Hymenophyllum cupressiforme</i>	Common Filmy-fern
	<i>Hymenophyllum flabellatum</i>	Shiny Filmy-fern
Osmundaceae	<i>Todea barbara</i>	King Fern
Polypodiaceae	<i>Microsorium pustulatum</i>	Kangaroo Fern
Pteridaceae	<i>Pteris tremula</i>	Tender Brake

#### **Monocotyledons**

Cyperaceae	<i>Gahnia sieberiana</i>	Red-fruited Saw-sedge
	<i>Lepidosperma elatius</i>	Tall Sword-sedge
	<i>Lepidosperma laterale</i>	Variable Sword-sedge
Juncaceae	<i>Juncus sp.</i>	Rush
	<i>Luzula meridionalis</i>	Field Woodrush
Liliaceae	<i>Dianella tasmanica</i>	Tasman Flax-lily
Poaceae	<i>Dryopoa dives</i>	Giant Mountain Grass
	<i>Microlaena stipoides</i>	Weeping Grass
	<i>Tetrarrhena juncea</i>	Forest Wire-grass



## Dicotyledons

Apiaceae	<i>Centella cordifolia</i>	Centella
	<i>Hydrocotyle geraniifolia</i>	Forest Pennywort
	<i>Hydrocotyle hirta</i>	Hairy Pennywort
Apocynaceae	<i>Parsonsia brownii</i>	Twining Silk-pod
Araliaceae	<i>Polyscias sambucifolia</i>	Elderberry Panax
Asteraceae	<i>Bedfordia arborescens</i>	Blanket-leaf
	<i>Cassinia aculeata</i>	Common Cassinia
	<i>Cassinia longifolia</i>	Shiny Cassinia
	<i>Euchiton involucratus</i>	Star Cudweed
	<i>Gamochaeta purpurea*</i>	Purple Cudweed
	<i>Leptinella filicula</i>	Mountain Cotula
	<i>Olearia argophylla</i>	Musk Daisy-bush
	<i>Olearia lirata</i>	Snowy Daisy-bush
	<i>Olearia phlogopappa</i>	Dusty Daisy-bush
	<i>Ozothamnus ferrugineus</i>	Tree Everlasting
	<i>Pseudognaphalium luteoalbum*</i>	Jersey Cudweed
	<i>Senecio glomeratus</i>	Annual Fireweed
	<i>Senecio linearifolius</i>	Fireweed
	<i>Senecio minimus</i>	Shrubby Fireweed
	<i>Senecio pinnatifolius</i>	Variable Fireweed
Bignoniaceae	<i>Pandorea pandorana</i>	Wonga Vine
Campanulaceae	<i>Wahlenbergia sp.</i>	Bluebell
Clusiaceae	<i>Hypericum gramineum</i>	Little St. John's Wort
Convolvulaceae	<i>Calystegia marginata</i>	Forest Bindweed
Fabaceae	<i>Acacia dealbata</i>	Silver Wattle
	<i>Acacia frutescens</i>	Montane Wattle
	<i>Acacia melanoxylon</i>	Blackwood
	<i>Acacia mucronata</i>	Narrow-leaf Wattle
	<i>Acacia obliquinervia</i>	Mountain Hickory Wattle
	<i>Acacia verticillata</i>	Prickly Moses
	<i>Platylobium montanum</i>	Handsome Flat-pea
	<i>Pultenaea muelleri</i>	Mueller's Bush-pea
Fagaceae	<i>Nothofagus cunninghamii</i>	Myrtle Beech
Gentianaceae	<i>Centaurium erythraea*</i>	Common Centaury
Geraniaceae	<i>Geranium sp.</i>	Geranium
Gesneriaceae	<i>Fieldia australis</i>	Fieldia
Goodeniaceae	<i>Goodenia ovata</i>	Hop Goodenia
Haloragaceae	<i>Gonocarpus humilis</i>	Shade Raspwort
Lamiaceae	<i>Prostanthera lasianthos</i>	Christmas Bush
	<i>Prostanthera melissifolia</i>	Balm Mint-bush
Monimiaceae	<i>Atherosperma moschatum</i>	Southern Sassafras
	<i>Hedycarya angustifolia</i>	Austral Mulberry
Myrtaceae	<i>Eucalyptus cypellocarpa</i>	Mountain Grey-gum
	<i>Eucalyptus obliqua</i>	Messmate
	<i>Eucalyptus regnans</i>	Mountain Ash
	<i>Eucalyptus viminalis subsp. viminalis</i>	Manna Gum
	<i>Leptospermum lanigerum</i>	Woolly Teatree
Oleaceae	<i>Notelaea venosum</i>	Large Mock-olive
Pittosporaceae	<i>Pittosporum bicolor</i>	Banyalla
Proteaceae	<i>Lomatia fraseri</i>	Tree Lomatia
	<i>Persoonia arborea</i>	Tree Geebung



Ranunculaceae	<i>Clematis aristata</i>	Australian Clematis
Rhamnaceae	<i>Pomaderris aspera</i>	Hazel Pomaderris
Rosaceae	<i>Acaena novae-zelandiae</i>	Bidgee-widgee Burr
	<i>Rubus parvifolius</i>	Small-leaf Bramble
Rubiaceae	<i>Coprosma quadrifida</i>	Prickly Currant-bush
	<i>Galium sp.</i>	Bedstraw
Rutaceae	<i>Correa lawrenceana</i>	Mountain Correa
	<i>Leionema bilobum subsp. serrulatum</i>	Toothed Leionema
	<i>Zieria arborescens</i>	Tree Zieria
Santalaceae	<i>Exocarpos cupressiformis</i>	Cherry Ballart
Solanaceae	<i>Solanum aviculare</i>	Kangaroo Apple
Thymeliaceae	<i>Pimelea axiflora</i>	Bootlace Bush
Urticaceae	<i>Australina pusilla subsp. muelleri</i>	Shade Nettle
	<i>Urtica incisa</i>	Scrub Nettle
Violaceae	<i>Viola hederacea</i>	Ivy-leaf Violet
Winteraceae	<i>Tasmannia lanceolata</i>	Mountain Pepper

\*introduced species



## APPENDIX III – Excursion to Duff Sawmill Track, Traralgon South 28.05.2016

### Birds

Black-cockatoo, Yellow-tailed	Pilotbird
Blackbird, Common	Raven, Little
Bowerbird, Satin	Robin, Eastern Yellow
Bronzewing, Common	Robin, Pink
Cockatoo Sulphur-crested	Robin, Rose
Currawong Pied	Rosella, Crimson
Fairy-wren, Superb	Scrubwren, White-browed
Gerygone, Brown	Shrike-thrush, Grey
Kookaburra, Laughing	Thornbill, Brown
Lyrebird, Superb	Thrush, Bassian
Magpie, Australian	

### Ferns

Aspleniaceae	<i>Asplenium bulbiferum</i>	Mother Spleenwort
Blechnaceae	<i>Blechnum chambersii</i>	Lance Water-fern
	<i>Blechnum fluviatile</i>	Ray Water-fern
	<i>Blechnum wattsi</i>	Hard Water-fern
Cyatheaceae	<i>Cyathea australis</i>	Rough Tree-fern
Dennstaedtiaceae	<i>Hypolepis glandulifera</i>	Downy Ground-fern
	<i>Pteridium esculentum</i>	Austral Bracken
Dicksoniaceae	<i>Dicksonia antarctica</i>	Soft Tree-fern
Dryopteridaceae	<i>Polystichum proliferum</i>	Mother Shield-fern
	<i>Rumorha adiantiformis</i>	Leathery Shield-fern
Grammitidaceae	<i>Ctenopteris heterophylla</i>	Gypsy Fern
Hymenophyllaceae	<i>Crepidomanes venosum</i>	Bristle Fern
	<i>Hymenophyllum australe</i>	Austral Filmy-fern
	<i>Hymenophyllum flabellifolium</i>	Shiny Filmy-fern
Polypodiaceae	<i>Microsorium pustulatum</i>	Kangaroo Fern
	<i>Microsorium scandens</i>	Fragrant Fern

### Lichens

Lobariaceae	<i>Pseudocyphellaria dissimilis</i>
Parmeliaceae	<i>Parmotrema perlatum</i>
Ramalinaceae	<i>Ramalina glaucescens</i>
Usneaceae	<i>Usnea inermis</i>

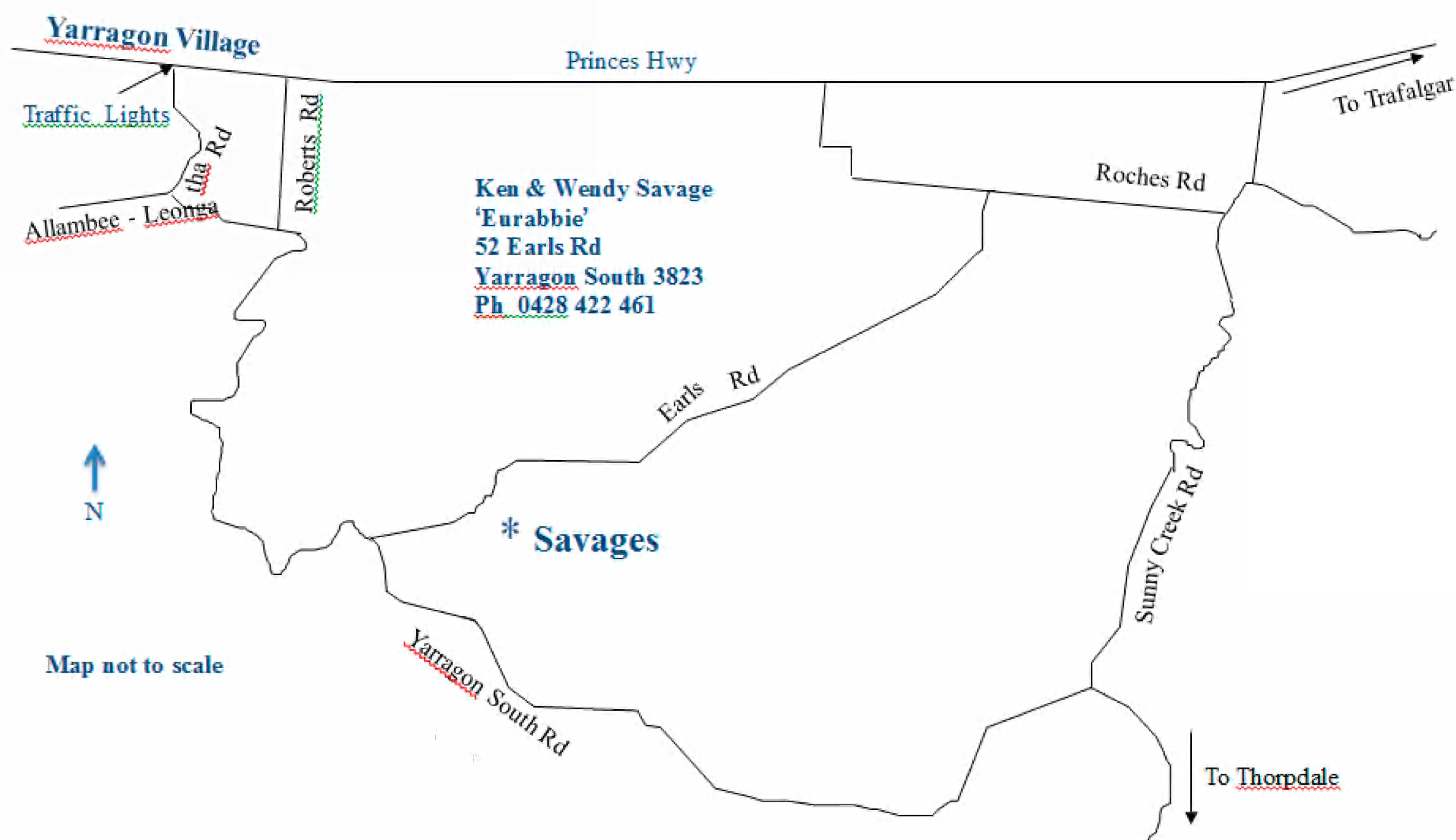


## Fungi

<i>Arcangeliella sp.</i>	Earthball
<i>Armillaria luteobubalina</i>	Honey Fungus
<i>Artomyces sp.</i>	
<i>Bisporella citrina</i>	
Boletaceae	Bolete
<i>Calocera sp. 1</i>	Pretty Horn
<i>Calocera sp. 2</i>	Pretty Horn
<i>Campanella olivaceonigra</i>	
<i>Ceriporia purpurea</i>	Purple Splash
<i>Chlorociboria aeruginascens</i>	Elf Cups
<i>Collybia eucalyptorum</i>	
<i>Collybia sp.</i>	
<i>Coprinus disseminatus</i>	Fairy Ink-caps
<i>Cordyceps gunnii</i>	Black Vegetable Caterpillar
<i>Cordyceps robertsii</i>	Antlered Vegetable Caterpillar
<i>Cudoniella pezizoidea</i>	
<i>Dermocybe austroveneta</i>	Green Skinhead
<i>Discinella terrestris</i>	
<i>Entoloma sp.</i>	
<i>Fistulina hepatica</i>	Beefsteak Fungus
<i>Galerina marginata</i>	
<i>Ganoderma applanatum</i>	Artist's Conk
<i>Geastrum triplex</i>	Earth Star
<i>Hericium coralloides</i>	Coral Tooth Fungus
<i>Heterotextus peziziformis</i>	Golden Jelly Bells
<i>Hypholoma brunneum</i>	
<i>Hypholoma fasciculare</i>	Sulphur Caps
<i>Hypholoma sp.</i>	
<i>Lachnum sp.</i>	
<i>Lichenomphalia umbellifera</i>	Brown Belly-buttons
<i>Lycoperdon perlatum</i>	
<i>Macrolepiota clelandii</i>	Parasol Mushroom
<i>Marasmiellus affixus</i>	
<i>Mycena cystidiosa</i>	Tall Mycena
<i>Mycena interrupta</i>	Pixie's Parasol
<i>Mycena nargan</i>	Nargan's Bonnet
<i>Mycoacia subceracea</i>	Golden Splash Tooth
<i>Pleurotus australis</i>	Oyster Fungus
<i>Ramaria flaccida</i>	
<i>Ramaria sp.</i>	Coral Fungus
<i>Ryvardenia campyla</i>	Weeping Polypore
<i>Schizophyllum commune</i>	Common Splitgill
<i>Stereum illudens</i>	Purplish Stereum
<i>Stereum ostrea</i>	Golden Curtain Crust
<i>Stereum rugosum</i>	Wrinkled Stereum
<i>Trametes sp.</i>	
<i>Trametes versicolor</i>	Rainbow Fungus
<i>Tremella fuciformis</i>	White Brain
<i>Tremella mesenterica</i>	Golden Jelly



## APPENDIX IV – Map and directions to location of Club Christmas party 2016



### From Melbourne

Turn right at Roberts Rd., 1.8 km past traffic lights at Yarragon. At end of Roberts Rd turn left into Yarragon South Rd. Travel about 5 km up windy, mostly gravel road. At top of the hill turn left into Earls Rd and house is second on right ½ km from turn.

### From Traralgon

Turn left at Sunny Creek road (the first intersection after Trafalgar), right at Roches Rd, then left onto Earls Rd. Travel nearly 5 km to top of hill. House is on the left ½ km before end of Earls Rd (tower on hill just before house)